

2/07/2025

High-Level Side Event by EPLO at the UN Geneva Human Rights Council

The EPLO, through its **Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in Geneva**, proudly marked the successful convening of a high-level side event titled "Sudan in Crisis: Voices from Beneath the Rubble for Justice and Peace" on **July 2, 2025**, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Held on the margins of the 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the event was a powerful call for justice, accountability, and international action.

In the face of what is now widely regarded as one of the most alarming humanitarian disasters of our time, the event gathered leading voices from across the diplomatic, legal, and humanitarian fields to confront the scale and complexity of the ongoing conflict in Sudan. The discussion brought to light the devastating toll of the civil war, with over 150,000 lives lost and close to 13 million people forcibly displaced. The crisis has also triggered what is now the world's largest hunger emergency, with more than 30 million people in dire need of humanitarian aid.

Panelists highlighted the use of internationally banned weapons, including chemical agents, and the collapse of nearly all major Sudanese cities and infrastructure. The political stalemate was strongly condemned, with experts underscoring the continued failure of peace negotiations and the refusal of the Sudanese Armed Forces to engage in meaningful dialogue. The military's ongoing rejection of civilian rule in any transitional process toward democratic elections was cited as a central obstacle to peace.

The panel emphasized that without a coordinated and sustained international response, Sudan risks becoming a permanently destabilized state. There was a unified call for urgent action by UN Member States, regional actors, and humanitarian agencies to respond to the worsening crisis and support a path toward sustainable peace, justice, and reconstruction.

The event was chaired by Ambassador **George Papadatos**, Head of the EPLO's Permanent Mission in Geneva, and featured a distinguished panel of speakers including **Mr. Mongi Hamdi**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia and former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Mali, **Dr. Victor Digbal** and **Mr. Vittorio Oppizzi** from Médecins Sans Frontières, **Ms. Mona Rishmawi**, member of the UN Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan, and **Dr. Ezzeddine Zayani**, President of the Tunisian Centre for Comprehensive Security Studies and former Ambassador of Tunisia to the African Union. Together, they called for renewed political will and accountability mechanisms to end the violence and begin rebuilding a devastated nation.

The EPLO reaffirms its commitment to promoting international public law, the protection of human rights, and peaceful conflict resolution, and will continue to play an active role in fostering global dialogue at the highest level.

For more information:

-https://beto.cd/actualite/encontinu/2025/07/03/crise-au-soudan-un-sommet-a-geneve-interpelle-la-



communaute-internationale.html/188394/

- $\underline{https://africagovernancemagazine.com/2025/07/03/high-level-international-event-in-geneva-addresses-escalating-crisis-in-sudan/$
- -https://www.myjoyonline.com/high-level-international-event-in-geneva-addresses-escalating-crisis-in-sudan/
- -UN panel reports chemical weapons allegations against Sudan army The Standard

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